



76-6988 Aumoe St.
Kailua Kona, HI 96740-2816

Phone: 808-322-0197

Fax: 808-324-4431

Message :

Re: U.S. Serial No. 09/495,407
Inventors: Keith Stiver, et al
Title: Golf Ball Flight Monitor System

Ms. White:

Attached is a one-page proposal including revisions to independent claims 34 and 86 for this application. The revisions primarily entail inclusion of language from dependent claim 89. I'd like to schedule a telephone interview to discuss these proposed revisions, or alternative language that you might propose for these claims. If we can reach agreement on these claims, then I think that the client will agree to canceling the remaining rejected independent claims.

A summary of the argument to be presented is as follows: Chang does not monitor post-impact ball spin. Sullivan '853, to the extent that a single camera system is mentioned, still uses three circular spots or dots on the ball. Such circular spots or dots are not an elongated "marking" or "stripe", and thus do not have a rotational "orientation" or a "curvature" in the camera images that can be processed to obtain post-impact ball spin information. Balmet and Masutani, to the extent that a striped ball is shown, do not disclose or suggest any use of "orientation and/or curvature" to derive post impact ball spin.

I will be in our Woodland Hills, CA office on Friday, 1/18, and Monday - Wednesday, 1/19-21. The telephone number there is 818-347-7900. Please let me know when we can schedule the telephone interview. Per our conversation today, I am tentatively planning for sometime Tuesday, 1/20.

Stuart Lowry
Reg. No. 26,563
KELLY BAUERSFELD LOWRY & KELLEY, LLP
6320 Canoga Ave., Ste. 1650
Woodland Hills, CA 91367

From:

Stuart Lowry

To: USPTO

Examiner C. D. White

Date: 1/13/2004

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EXHIBIT 1
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(For Telephone Interview Discussion Only)

34. (currently amended) An apparatus for determining spin characteristics of a golf ball after impact with a golf club head comprising:

an image capture device including a camera for capturing two or more images of the golf ball after impact with the golf club head; and

a processor connected with said image capture device;

wherein said golf ball has at least one marking that is at least halfway circumambulatory of the surface of said golf ball such that said marking is at least partially within the view of said camera for any rotational position of said golf ball when said images are taken; and

wherein said processor determines spin of said ball based on an automatic determination of at least one characteristic of only one of said markings on images captured only with said camera;

said at least one characteristic including orientation and/or curvature of said marking.

86. (currently amended) A system for monitoring spin of a golf ball following impact by a golf club, the system comprising:

a golf ball having a an elongated stripe thereon;

a camera positioned to capture at least two images of the golf ball following impact by a golf club; and

a processor for finding the stripe in images captured only by the camera and for determining a spin of the ball based on at least one characteristic or more characteristics of the stripe in said images;

said at least one characteristic including orientation and/or curvature of said stripe.

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EXHIBIT 1
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